1: Powdermaker E-5 (1929-1930) 1933 OM10 New Ireland OM10
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of children's play. I observed only one organized game, a warlike one for boys, in which imitation spears were thrown at a target.

SEXUAL PLAY

Nights when the moon is full are the best playtime for children, as well as for adults. Then the children of both sexes may be found on the sandy beach playing at ritual dancing, or imitating adult life in their sexual play, which consists in the boy and girl standing very close together, the sexual organs of one touching those of the other, but not penetrating. It is usually done quite openly, in public, and the adults smile upon it and regard it as the natural order of things. This kind of play occurs from the age of about four. Occasionally a boy and girl will steal away into the bush for it, which is merely imitating the adult in more detail. The children have rather full knowledge since they sleep in the same room with their parents, the house consisting of only one room, and since all of life is discussed freely in front of them. Just as the adults of the same moiety may neither marry nor have any sex relations, so also a boy and girl of the same moiety may not indulge in sexual play. If this rule should be broken the children would be lectured, beaten, and thoroughly shamed.[1] The adults appear to be well aware of the laws of habit formation, and they take no chance on letting the children transgress an incest taboo even in play.

Early childhood is a careless and carefree time. Children are left to amuse themselves as they will, or they simply follow the adults and look on at their activities. An older brother or sister, parent, or grandparent, is always present to see that they come to no harm. As a whole, the children are in the background. They are given sufficient care to see that they do not fall into trouble, but they are not the centre of attention. For the most part they are onlookers and minor

[1] It did not happen, as far as I know, during my visit.